

# The West Wagga Wag

Issue 126

August 2013

## Coming Events

**National Vocations  
Awareness Week: 4 –11 Aug**

**Solemnity of St Mary  
MacKillop: Thurs 8  
(check for Mass times)**

**Prayer Vigil for Peace:  
Thurs 8**

**'Fireproof'  
Parish Film Night: Fri 9**

**Assumption of the BVM:  
Thurs 15  
Holy Day of obligation; please  
check for additional Mass times.**

**Prayers for Healing: Fri 16**

**Carmelite Ladies Luncheon:  
Wed 21  
(Mr Tim Fisher to speak)**

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## Wag Contacts

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The due date for the next Wag is:  
Sunday September 29th.

## Parish First Holy Communions

On Friday July 26 at Saint Michael's Cathedral 36 children made their first Holy Communion. Given the large number of children it was preferred to be at the Cathedral. Parents and children had been involved in the parish sacramental program for the five weeks prior and this was completed by a instruction in Trinity Centre which depicted the Mass in Slow Motion. All the parts of the Mass were explained and youth and parents were encouraged to be faithful to their baptismal grace and weekly Mass commitment. We congratulate all recipients of the Lord and especially the baptised Joshua Hinchliffe and Lucy Ellis



Joshua Hinchliffe being baptised



Lucy Ellis blessed as a catechumen



## pastor's page



As August begins our attention is drawn back to St Mary of the Cross, better known as St Mary Mackillop. This Aug 8 falls on a Thursday & Bishop Gerard will once again pay tribute to the glory of God by honouring St Mary as the patron of the Diocese of Wagga Wagga. There will be a special Mass at St Michael's Cathedral at 6pm on the 8th. The Preface for the saints gives us some understanding why the feasts of the saints of God are important for us. The first preface for saints prays: "Father, almighty and eternal, you are praised in the company of your Saints and, in crowning their merits, you crown your own. By their way of life you offer us an example, by communion with them you give us companionship, by their intercession, sure support, so that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us and win with them the imperishable crown of glory through Christ our Lord."

So the saints are not just for our admiration but also for our imitation. We are to copy their heroic virtue and example of charity towards God and neighbour. St Mary is an example of excellence of Christian living and love. The Bishops wrote Mary Mackillop is a model for pilgrims seeking Christ. We see from her life that even though Mary lived a full and active life, she made sure that she spent time each day in prayer and meditation, often late into the night. With her focus on Jesus she was able to live a holy and exemplary life which inspires us to do the same. In Sept 1873, Mary was invited by Fr Christie SJ to go on the great pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial in France to give

honour at the shrine of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

St Mary was an advocate for the poor. Mary's love for Christ was so strong that she sought him out in the poor, sick and suffering. There are many examples in Mary's life where she put aside her own needs in order to serve the sick, lonely and disadvantaged. The children taught by the Sisters often had no shoes to wear. On the night before their First Holy Communion, Mary would have a re-enactment of the Washing of the Feet. This meant all the children would have clean feet for this special occasion in their life.

St Mary is a living example of the power of the Cross of Jesus. Mary of the Cross suffered hardship from others and regular illness in her own life. She experienced the loss of a number of her siblings in their youth and the tragic death of her mother through drowning. Mary felt these crosses deeply and at times felt like giving up. With time to reflect, Mary saw suffering as a blessing from God and an invitation to share in the cross of Christ.

St Mary was a woman of the Church. As a baptised Christian Mary took seriously the challenge to serve Christ in all peoples especially those who were poor. She trusted in the providence of God to sustain her. As a leader in the church, Mary was often engaging with bishops and priests whom she treated with great integrity and respect. Mary was for many a 'sign and instrument of God's love'. She and her Sisters lived in and among the people taking the heart of the church into their midst. St Mary inspired people to work for peace and justice in true charity.

Whenever Mary saw a need she set out to respond. Mary sought always to bring about justice and required her followers to do the same. While she challenged unjust behaviour Mary always showed great respect for people & worked for peace and harmony in all situations. She did her best at the time of the excommunication to prevent the matter going into the public media.

Similarly she endeavoured to quieten the public critics of Bishop Quinn in Brisbane.

St Mary had an openness to those of other faith traditions. Mary befriended people of other Christian denominations & faith traditions at a time when this practice was uncommon. In turn they offered her great friendship & support & valued her respect & loving concern. Johanna & Robert Barr Smith were two who became close friends. Her example invites us to work for the unity of all Christians & to be involved in Interfaith Dialogue.

Mary proclaimed the Gospel. For Mary people were equally important whatever their beliefs. She was at home with people of any class or culture, and showed great respect and love for all. She proclaimed Christ's message as much by example as by word. When someone was in trouble she would go in person to attend to the situation. When the kerosene lamp exploded in Port Augusta, and two of her Sisters were critically injured Mary went at once to be with them, even though it was a difficult journey. She arrived in time to be with Sr Laurencia Honner until she died. She stayed with Sr Stanislaus Punyer, the other member of the community, for a week to console and to encourage her.

May St Mary of the Cross Mackillop pray for us all, so that we and our parish may be blest by our Heavenly Father. We thank God for her great and worthy example of Christian living.

*Fr Gerard*



# August Jokes



Thanks to Michael Ford (New Yorker 30)  
 11-26-2012  
 ARE THOSE THE NEW GENERATION TABLETS  
 WITH RIGHT TO LEFT CAPABILITY AND SCROLL  
 SIMULATION? WHO MAKES THIS PARTICULAR  
 MODEL? SPECS PLEASE!

Farmer Joe was suing a trucking company for injuries sustained in an accident. In court, the company's fancy lawyer was questioning Farmer Joe.

"Didn't you say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'?" asked the lawyer.

Farmer Joe responded, "Well, I'll tell you what happened. I had just loaded my favorite mule, Bessie, into the . . ."

"I didn't ask for any details," the lawyer interrupted. "Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine'?" Farmer Joe continued, "Well, I had just got Bessie into the trailer and I was driving down the road . . ." The lawyer interrupted again and said, "Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman that he was just fine.

Now, several months after the accident, he is suing my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question." But the judge was interested in Farmer Joe's story and said to the lawyer, "I'd like to hear what he has to say about his mule, Bessie. Joe thanked the judge and proceeded. "Well, as I was saying, I had just loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into the trailer and was driving her down the highway when this huge semi-truck and trailer ran the stop sign and smacked my truck right in the side.

"I was thrown into one ditch and Bessie was thrown into the other. I was hurting real bad and didn't want to move. However, I could hear ole Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape just by her groans.

"Shortly after the accident, a highway patrolman came on the scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he went over to her. After he looked at her, he took out his gun and shot her between the eyes. Then the patrolman came across the road with his gun in his hand and looked at me.

"He said, 'Your mule was in such bad shape I had to shoot her. How are you feeling?'"

Q: Why are frogs so happy?

A: They eat whatever bugs them.

How much did the pirate pay for his piercings? A buck-an-ear!

Did you hear about the pirate who took up boxing?  
 He had a great left hook!

Why couldn't the pirates play cards? The captain was standing on the deck!

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?  
 A nervous wreck!

While working for our local church, we have a ministry that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my four-year-old daughter with me on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs.

One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, "The tooth fairy will never believe this!"

Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet?  
 Because they can spend years at C!

What has 8 legs, 8 arms and 8 eyes? 8 pirates

Q: What do you call a fake noodle?  
 A: An Impasta

A sign was hanging in an office window. It read:

Help wanted.

Must type 70 words a minute.

Must be computer literate.

Must be bilingual.

An equal opportunity employer. A dog was ambling down the street and saw the sign. He looked at it for a moment, pulled it down with his mouth, and walked into the manager's office, making it clear he wished to apply for the job.

The office manager laughed and said, "I can't hire a dog for this job."

The dog pointed to the line: "An equal opportunity employer." So the manager said, "OK, take this letter and type it." The dog went off to the word processor and returned a minute later with the finished letter, perfectly formatted. The manager said, "Alright, here's a problem. Write a computer program for it and run it." Fifteen minutes later, the dog came back with the correct answer. The manager still wasn't convinced. "I still can't hire you for this position. You've got to be bilingual."

The dog looked up at the manager and said, "Meow."



# Blessed Pope John Paul II's Miracle



SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (CNS) -- After doctors told Floribeth Mora Diaz that a brain aneurysm left her with days to live, she retreated to her Costa Rican home and prayed to Blessed Pope John Paul II.

From her bedroom in a small town in Costa Rica's Cartago province, Mora said she heard his voice. "Rise! ... Don't be afraid."

She got up from her bed, prompting her husband to ask her, "My love, what are you doing here?" As a teary-eyed Mora recalled at a July 5 news conference, she responded to her husband, "I feel better."

That was in May 2011. Doctors could not explain the rapid improvement, and Mora became the

second miracle attributed to the Blessed John Paul, who died in 2005. The first miracle was a French nun cured of Parkinson's disease the same year.

On July 5, Pope Francis signed a decree allowing for the canonization of Blessed John Paul and Blessed John XXIII.

Later that day, Mora addressed the media from the Costa Rican capital, San Jose. With a portrait of Blessed John Paul hanging behind her, Mora told reporters that she had faced imminent death.

She began suffering from intense headaches in April 2011 and was diagnosed with an aneurysm. Her life was in danger, her physician, Dr. Alejandro Vargas, told reporters after the news conference.

"It was very sad," Mora said, "seeing my children looking at me, standing next to my bed, seeing my husband making himself strong."

Mora's family had built an altar to Blessed John Paul, and she was given a gift of a magazine with his photograph on the cover.

Mora said that as she stared at the photograph, Blessed John Paul began to speak to her.

"I was surprised. I kept looking at the magazine. I said, 'Yes, Lord,' and I got up," she told a Mexican television station in an interview.

She held the magazine at the news conference as tears rolled down her cheeks.

Vargas told a local television that there was no medical explanation for her improvement. "It surprised me. ... I said, 'It really is a miracle because I can't explain it,'" he said.

Mora said her illness left her very afraid.

"But I always kept my faith. I have always been a firm believer. I have a deep love of God," she said.



## Holy Trinity Raffle Supporting Volunteers to Vietnam!

The Confraternity of Christ the Priest has 6 young men in Vietnam preparing to come to Australia and train for the priesthood here.

This raffle will support volunteers from Australia who will travel to Vietnam to help teach the candidates Australian English.

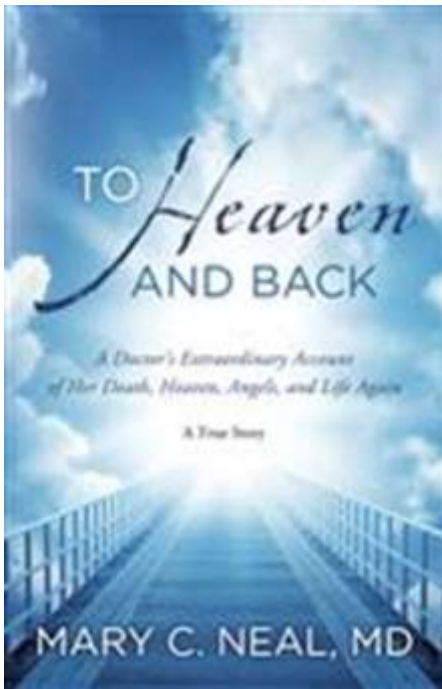
**Prize - beautiful mother of pearl decoupage artwork of the Holy Trinity & Holy Family  
handmade in Vietnam -**

Approx. 51 x 36 cm

**Ticket price—\$2 per ticket, or 3 for \$5**

**Draw date—to be announced**

## To Heaven and Back ...



“To Heaven and Back: is a Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels and Life Again,” spinal surgeon Dr. Mary Neal explains how she was drowning in a kayak, until God told her she still had other work to do. A former sceptic, Dr. Neal discusses how the experience transformed her spiritual life, converting her into a believer who wants to spread the word.

In her best-selling book, Dr. Mary Neal writes of her drowning during a kayaking trip in Chile, meeting with angels, and being sent back to her body and family. This story can also be viewed via the internet at NBC News on their Today Show. It displays a moving video clip of Dr Neal's true story as she recounts her misadventure while kayaking, her accident, her death, her experience after death, the prophecy of her own son's death and how these experiences have changed her life and her love for God and her love for her family. [www.today.com/id/48229151/ns/today-today\\_books/t/heaven-back-cynic-finds-god-near-death-experience/](http://www.today.com/id/48229151/ns/today-today_books/t/heaven-back-cynic-finds-god-near-death-experience/#.UfnepZLWVRs) #.UfnepZLWVRs . Her story has also been aired on, CNN and the Dr. OZ Show, along with many more.

There are plenty of snippets on YouTube.

Dr. Mary Neal is a board-certified orthopaedic spine surgeon. She drowned while kayaking on a South American river. She experienced life after death. She went to heaven and came back, conversed with Jesus and experienced God's encompassing love. She was returned to Earth with some specific instructions for work she still needed to do. Her life has been one filled with miracles and interventions of God. Her story gives a reason to live by faith. It is a story of hope and a reassurance that eternal life after death is real.

Dr. Neal describes her out-of-body experience; the breaking of both of her knees as the force of water dragged her from the kayak; her experience of life after death; her return to consciousness and the effects this experience has had on her; her family and those who have heard the recounting of her spiritual witness regarding with Heaven.

In her book *To Heaven and Back* Mary writes about her adventure in Chile and the events that led to her death. ‘As my boat rocketed down, the front dove under the other boat and became pinned between it and the submerged rocks of the waterfall. The water immediately engulfed me, my boat, and the previously pinned boat. I was upright in my boat, but the water was flowing over the top of me. My boat and I were essentially buried under both falling water and the other boat. The force of the water was so great that I felt like a rag doll. My body was forced onto the front deck of my boat, with my arms helplessly being pulled downriver.’

Her kayak was lodge in rocks. She was trapped under a rapid so powerful that she could do nothing to escape. The volume and power of the falling water, had prevented any hope of making a clean exit. The force of the water was too great. She could not get free. After more than 15 minutes her dead body was finally washed out of the kayak. This broke

both her knees and into more rapids where her kayak friends were frantically looking for her.

Prior to her experience, Mary was not very spiritual. She was too busy with life. Mary was a scientist, a surgeon and a sceptic of spiritual experiences, even though she believed in God. Mary was a busy working wife to Bill and a mother with four children.

Her after life experience lasted between 15-25 minutes under water. She affirms that there is life after death. Even though she was happily married, loved her children and a competent surgeon her after death experience was so enthralling that she states that during it she had no desire to return to her ordinary life. ‘The joy of heaven was just too captivating. There is no desire to return. Only a desire for more of heaven.’ She says she felt deeply at home in heaven.

After recuperating from her experience, Mary informed her husband Bill that she had been told in heaven that their eldest son was going to die in an accident but that he would be safe in heaven. In fact, he did die ten years later as a victim in a car accident. Although Mary was profoundly saddened by this fact she is very confident that she would eventually see him again in heaven. She remains convinced that her experience and message of life after death is not only true but a message of God's love for all those who love Him.



## Dead Baby, Yasmin Gomes, Wakes in Hospital Chapel



Hospital personnel and family members are at a loss for words in describing the rebirth of Yasmin Gomes, but "miracle" might be a start.

A nurse's decision to place the "dead" baby in the chapel of Lincoln Graca hospital in Brazil — because she "couldn't face sending her to the morgue" — may have saved the child's life.

The child's mother, Jenifer da Silva Gomes, was helpless as doctors frantically tried to revive her newborn who had showed signs of life at birth but lost vitals moments afterward. When doctors pronounced Yasmin dead and signed her death certificate, all seemed lost for Jenifer.

"My world crashed down right then. It was the most desperate moment when all my dreams were snatched away," she told Brazil's Tanosite.

The nurse assisting with the

pregnancy, Ana Claudia Oliveira, decided against shipping the infant off to the morgue, so she had Yasmin dressed in a burial gown and placed her in the chapel because she was a "little angel," International Business Times reported.

"I can assure you, the child was dead. Her pupils didn't respond to light. All her signs pointed to the complete absence of life," said Oliveira.

"I saw it with my own eyes. She was blue all over, completely dead."

After unsuccessful attempts to bring the child back, Doctor Aurelia Filipak said what happened next was unlike anything he has seen in his 20 years of medicine.

Elza Silva, grandmother of Yasmin, was on her way to the chapel in order to transfer her presumably dead granddaughter to the morgue when, in her eyes, a miracle took place. Yasmin, who was pronounced dead by doctors just three hours before, opened her eyes and began kicking.

"At first I couldn't believe it, we couldn't accept that it could happen," Silva explained to Brazil's Globo G1.

"Then we saw that she was breathing. We hugged each other and started to shout, 'she's alive, she's alive.'"

When Oliveira stopped to consider

medical explanations, she decided there were none — simply put, it was a miracle.

Doctor Aurelio Filipak, the medic who battled to save Yasmin and signed her death certificate, said he had never witnessed anything like it in his 20 years in medicine.

"People can make their own conclusions, but only those who were there know what really happened."

Yasmin's family said they plan to change her name to include Victoria - which translates to 'victory' in Portuguese - in light of her 'resurrection'.

"There is no explaining miracles. They happen as God want," her mother said. "If it was his will that our daughter had died, we would have accepted it, but he brought her back, so there must be a higher purpose in all this."



*Throwing food away is like stealing from the tables of the poor, the hungry!*

Pope Francis



## Free Ho.T FILM NIGHT



Friday August 9th, 7.30 pm - Join together to watch:

### *Fire Proof* PG

Capt. Caleb Holt lives by the old firefighter's adage: Never leave your partner behind. But after seven years of marriage, he and his wife have drifted so far apart that they are ready to move on without each other. As they prepare to divorce, Caleb's dad asks his son to try The Love Dare.

Will he be able to demonstrate love over and over again to a person that's no longer receptive to his love? Or is this just another marriage destined to go up in smoke?

Tea and coffee provided. Come and enjoy a social evening!

## Living paradox: A pilgrim's reflections on World Youth Day 2013

Kiara Pirola ABC RELIGION AND ETHICS 26 JUL 2013

Attending the opening Mass of WYD 2013 on Copacabana Beach, I was blown away by the vibrancy, the joy and the sheer mass of humanity. Never will you see so many different national flags in one place - though, paradoxically, in that same place, an event takes place that renders nationality irrelevant.

Here, people from all races and nations gather to pray and have Mass. Holy Communion has never been more literal or tangible to me than when I am standing among hundreds of people from twelve different countries lining up to receive the Eucharist. Everything in Rio is in Portuguese, so suffice to say it is a struggle to understand anything that is going on. However, we come to Mass and suddenly everything makes sense again. I know which prayers are being said, I know when to stand, to sit and to kneel as if I was at my regular parish Mass. The power of seeing thousands of flags fall still as everyone kneels at the consecration renders all our differences irrelevant. Here we are, kneeling before the sacrifice of a Jewish carpenter and we are one. We are one body, one Church, one people.

Catholicism is paradoxical. When one grasps this, both World Youth Day and the Catholic Church begin to make much more sense. The fact of the matter is the Catholic Church is not dying. I challenge anyone who announces the death of Catholicism (and religious belief in general) to come and see a World Youth Day.

World Youth Day is a life-changing experience; it is not something you leave behind in the host country. This year's theme clearly

emphasises this fact: "Go ... and make disciples of all nations." What does this mean? It means go home and be a paradox! Stand firm on principles in all matters, but always love your neighbour first.

Participate actively and joyfully in those inane, backward Catholic practices that can often seem boring and old fashion. But above all, live the paradox that the Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta discovered:

"Love until it hurts, then there is no more hurt; only love."



Pope Francis is our model of the living paradox of Catholicism. Here is a Jesuit, taking the name of St. Francis of Assisi. Here is a man with access to the beauty and comfort of the Papal facilities, but refusing them. Here is a man who asks for very little, but gives everything of himself in humble service to every person he meets. Here is a man who is thoroughly well educated and learned, but always seeks to learn from others first.

Pope Francis, the living paradox, will undoubtedly leave a deep impression on all of us. The last two Popes have been calling for a "New Evangelisation" and now, finally, I think I know what that nebulous term means. It means to be a paradox, to love Jesus and to live according to his teachings. It means to love the Church despite the flaws, imperfections and downright

evil actions of some of its members. When we live with Jesus at the centre of our lives, people notice. That is the essence of evangelisation - to answer the challenge of St. Francis: "Preach the gospel always and, if necessary, use words."

This is why Pope John Paul II created World Youth Day - to offer a concrete invitation to young people to become witnesses and to evangelise just by gathering together for Mass with the Pope. The impact of that experience has long-lasting effect on the faith of the pilgrims and their life. Husbands have met their wives, priests, nuns, brothers and singles have found their vocations and purpose in life, and deep friendships are formed.

Re-fuelled and on fire with this incredible experience, we return home to the normal, quiet routine. Whether it takes a week or ten years for the full effect of a World Youth Day experience to bear fruit, it always does. It has and is continuing to have a lasting effect on the host nation and on the travelling pilgrims.

Nietzsche announced "God is dead." I, along with a few million other Catholics here in Rio, would like politely to disagree. He is very much alive and is calling new disciples every day. He is calling us, and we have answered because we are the Church - not in the future, but the right here, right now. To those who might be just a little cynical about the whole thing, I extend a simple invitation to you: come and see!

*Kiara Pirola is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame (Australia) and contributor to Catholic Talk.*

# The West Wagga Wag

West Wagga Parish



Serving: Ashmont,  
Collingullie,  
Glenfield, Lloyd,  
and San Isidore



# The Parable of the Rich Fool



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain \_\_\_\_\_ man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my \_\_\_\_\_.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my \_\_\_\_\_ and build \_\_\_\_\_ ones, and there I will store all my \_\_\_\_\_ and my goods. And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_.'"

"But God said to him, 'You \_\_\_\_\_! This very night your \_\_\_\_\_ will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

barns crops eat merry grain  
bigger drink fool rich life